

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 10, 2002      LB 1211

policy and I don't think that's something we should do. The amendment only requires that a vote be taken in those political subdivisions that would otherwise be up against their levy limit and to, at that point, exclude the special tax levy that is necessary to support their portion of the bond obligation in the future. I don't think that's unreasonable to ask. I think that's consistent with past practices. This is not going to hold up this statewide project. This statewide project is not going to start tomorrow. It isn't going to start the day after tomorrow. It isn't going to start next month. It won't even start until some time next year, if I understand what the proposal is. Senator Beutler's amendment says you really can't do anything about funding until this comes back to the Legislature and you find out what portion the Legislature might support. If the Legislature doesn't support any portion of it maybe none of it will go anywhere. This isn't something that's going to happen tomorrow and it isn't something that the political subdivisions are mandated to do. This is an optional program for them, thank goodness, because it's going to be a very expensive one I think. Now the election that we're asking them to have, if they're going to be up at their maximum levy, is not an overly burdensome process. They're not going to have to incur a lot of extra cost.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: They participate in elections in those communities in any event, primary elections, general elections, and maybe a special election for some other purpose, so at that point all it is, is simply the cost of a ballot. We're not asking them to incur a great deal of expense and we're not asking that we hold up this wonderful project. All we're asking is that we be consistent with past policies and if you're going to incur very long-term obligations, 15 or 20 years, and you're at your maximum levy, that you have a vote of the people that are going to pay for the next 15 or 20 years. I think they're entitled to that and I don't think this is such a special project that we should deviate from that long-standing policy.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. You've heard the closing on AM3672 to LB 1211. The question before the body